AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An inventory management method that calculates a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein a computer comprises:

a step for calculating a <u>first</u> sales plan amount from a standard day<u>, prior to said specific day,</u> to said specific day based on sales performance data that stores the sales performance, and sales plan data that stores the sales plan;

a step for predicting [[an]] <u>a first</u> inventory amount at said specific day based on said <u>first</u> sales plan amount, <u>a second</u> inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a step for predicting a <u>second</u> sales <u>plan</u> amount of the period from said specific day <s>to the</s> <u>through a number of following</u> days required to deliver <u>a</u> [[the]] merchandise <s>passes</s>, based on said <u>first</u> sales plan amount;

a step for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said <u>second</u> sales <u>plan</u> amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio;

a step for calculating a lower limit inventory amount of said specific day based on said <u>second</u> sales <u>plan</u> amount and said sales fluctuation range amount; and

a step for calculating a supplement amount based on <u>said first</u> inventory amount and <u>said</u> lower limit inventory amount of said specific day.

2. (Currently Amended) The inventory management method according to claim 1, wherein said step for calculating the <u>first</u> sales plan amount comprises:

a step for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

a step for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a step for calculating a sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

3. (Original) The inventory management method according to claim 1, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

4. (Original) The inventory management method according to claim 1, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

5. (Currently Amended) The inventory management method according to claim 1, wherein said computer further comprises a step for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket ~~order~~ orders, ~~when there is a blanket order,~~ and said step for calculating said lower limit inventory amount[[,]] includes ~~calculates~~ calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales ~~plan~~ amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket ~~order~~ orders.

6. (Currently Amended) An inventory management apparatus, which calculates a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, that comprises a storing unit that stores sales performance data, which stores sales performance, and sale plan data, which stores sales plan, and a controller which:

calculates a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on said sales performance data and said sales plan data;

predicts [[an]] a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said sales first plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

predicts a _second_ sales _plan_ amount of the period from said specific day ~~to the~~ _through a_ _number of following_ days required to deliver _a_ [[the]] merchandise ~~passes~~, based on said _first_ sales plan amount;

calculates a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said _second_ sales _plan_ amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio;

calculates a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day based on said _second_ sales _plan_ amount and said sales fluctuation range amount; and

calculates a supplement amount based on _said first_ inventory amount and _said_ lower limit inventory amount of said specific day.

7. (Currently Amended) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data, calculates an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day, and calculates [[a]] _said first_ sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

8. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

9. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

10. (Currently Amended) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each _of one or more_ blanket ~~order~~ ~~orders~~, ~~when there is a blanket order,~~ and calculates with said sales fluctuation range and said

second sales plan amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket order orders.

11. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, which records an inventory management program for calculating a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein said inventory management program functions a computer as:

a first sales plan amount calculating means for calculating a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on sales performance data that stores the sales performance, and sales plan data that stores the sales plan;

a first inventory amount predicting means for predicting [[an]] a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said first sales plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a second sales plan amount predicting means for predicting a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day to the through a number of following days required to deliver a [[the]] merchandise passes, based on said first sales plan amount;

a sales fluctuation range calculating means for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio;

a lower limit inventory amount calculating means for calculating a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day based on said second sales plan amount and said sales fluctuation range amount; and

a supplement amount calculating means for calculating a supplement amount based on said first inventory amount and said lower limit inventory amount of said specific day.

12. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to claim 11, which functions said first sales plan amount calculating means as:

a sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

an expected sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a sales plan amount calculating means for calculating [[a]] said first sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

13. (Original) The recoding medium according to claim 11, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

14. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

15. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to claim 11, which further functions said computer as retrospective day calculating means for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket ~~order~~ orders, ~~when there is a blanket order,~~ and functions said lower limit inventory amount means as means for calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount, the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket ~~order~~ orders.